



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

MEC SIMELANE ORDERS URGENT REPAIRS AT NIEMEYER HOSPITAL, FOLLOWING STORM DAMAGE

31 December 2025

KWAZULU-NATAL HEALTH MEC Ms Nomagugu Simelane has declared that repairs at Niemeyer Hospital be expedited with immediate effect, so that the facility can return to normal functioning, following infrastructural damage caused by a recent heavy storm.

During her visit to the hospital, in Utrecht (Amajuba District) on Tuesday, MEC Simelane directed the Department and its service providers to prioritise the following four urgent interventions:

- *The urgent repair of the hospital borehole to restore a stable water supply;
- *The deployment of a generator to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to the staff headquarters;
- *The immediate clearing of all corrugated iron sheets, roofing material, and storm debris across the hospital precinct; and
- *The urgent repair and replacement of all broken and cracked window panes, particularly in patient care and staff areas.

These immediate actions are aimed at stabilising operations and ensuring a safe environment for patients, staff, and visitors.

The storm, which occurred on the 26th of December 2026, caused extensive infrastructure damage across the hospital. Part of the roof at the Casualty Unit was blown off, and damage was also recorded at the guard room, archive room, a carport, and staff residences, among others. A park home was shifted off its slab, air-conditioning units were damaged, walkways were affected, and fascia boards, gutters, and downpipes were destroyed.

Electrical cables were also left exposed in some areas, and the Chief Electrical Engineer has been instructed to urgently address this to ensure safety and compliance.

Following the storm, the hospital compiled a comprehensive damage report, and a service provider was dispatched on Saturday to conduct an initial assessment and begin emergency stabilisation. Some areas were temporarily closed for safety reasons, loose roof sheeting has been removed, displaced tiles have been corrected, and the clearing of debris is ongoing.

While a full technical assessment of the entire hospital is underway, contractors are already on site implementing interim repairs while planning for permanent restoration.

MEC Simelane emphasised that the completion of all repairs is a priority.

“Our people depend on this hospital. We cannot allow storm damage to compromise patient care. Repairs must be fast-tracked so that Niemeyer Hospital returns to full functionality as quickly as possible,” said MEC Simelane.

The Department will continue to monitor progress and will provide updates as work progresses.

ENDS